

ANNUAL REPORT

environmental health



Lois Schmidt
Co-owner
Greg's Restaurant

CONSUMER SERVICES AND HEALTH PROTECTION

Food Protection, Quality Child
Care, Water Quality, Public Health
Nuisances

*"We have always taken pride
in operating a safe and clean
restaurant. And it really
meant a lot to us to be
publicly recognized as the
winner of the Board of
Health's annual 'Excellence in
Food Service Sanitation'
award. This award program is
a great way to encourage
good sanitation and safe food
handling."*

Food Protection Program

Health Objective For the Year
2000 - To reduce the incidence of
foodborne disease.

Progress on Key Indicators for
Healthy People 2000

Salmonella infections
decreased from a rate of
18/100,000 people in 1990 to
14/100,000 people in 1998. The
Year 2000 Goal is 10/100,000
people.

"Critical Item" food code violations have decreased from 19% of all violations found during inspections to 12%. The Year 2000 Goal is 15%.

Foodborne illness continues to pose significant public health risks. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 76 million cases occur in the U.S. each year, causing 325,000 hospitalizations and 5000 deaths. Extrapolated to Lancaster County, approximately 50,000 people had a foodborne illness this past year. The Food Protection Program's goal is to assure that commercially prepared food is safe to consume. About 96 restaurants, retail markets and schools are licensed. Food Handler and Manager education, consultation/technical assistance, inspections and enforcement are the four main aspects of the Program. Technical assistance ranges from plan review for new facilities to hazard analysis of critical control points in food preparation processes. Public complaints on food establishments and potential foodborne illness outbreaks are investigated quickly.

Community Involvement Assures both the Public and Industry are Heard

The Food Advisory Committee involves both industry and citizen representatives to advise staff and the Board of Health on how to best protect the public from foodborne illness.

Lincoln's Growth Prompts Increased Resources Dedicated to Foodborne Illness Prevention

After a thorough program review and comparability study, the Food Advisory Committee recommended that the Board of Health and Mayor add staff resources to the Food Program, funded by fees. An extensive industry and community input process resulted in broad based support. The Mayor's budget included two additional staff in the Food Program. These staff resources will be focused on consultation and technical assistance, increased inspection frequency for food facilities that serve higher risk populations, such as older adults and children, and improved food handler education.

HIGHLIGHTS

More than 200 Food Managers attended three continuing education seminars developed by LLCHD, with help from UNL, Lancaster County Extension and the Nebraska Restaurant Association.



Over 8,000 food handlers were trained through LLCHD classes and LLCHD-approved restaurant and in-store training programs. A class is offered in Spanish every month.

UNL and Southeast Community College ServSafe courses educated 374 food managers, who passed national exams and obtained their Food Manager Permits.

LLCHD and the Food Advisory Committee coordinated efforts in the community to educate the public on foodborne illness prevention during National Food Safety Month in September. Participating agencies and organizations included the Mayor's Office, Lancaster County Extension, UNL Food Science, Nebraska Grocers Association and the Nebraska Restaurant Association.

Several significant food borne illness outbreaks were confirmed:

- Over 120 people became ill following a catered retirement party at the State Capitol.
- Food poisoning was confirmed in nine adults and two children from two separate parties. They developed vomiting and diarrhea within two hours of eating delivered pizza.

- Twenteth-three people from two separate groups became ill after eating at a local restaurant. One was hospitalized and two received intravenous fluids for re-hydration. Investigation pointed toward employees who prepared food while sick.

- Fourteen sorority house members became ill following a dinner at their house. Six of the 14 went to a local hospital emergency room due to the severity of vomiting and diarrhea

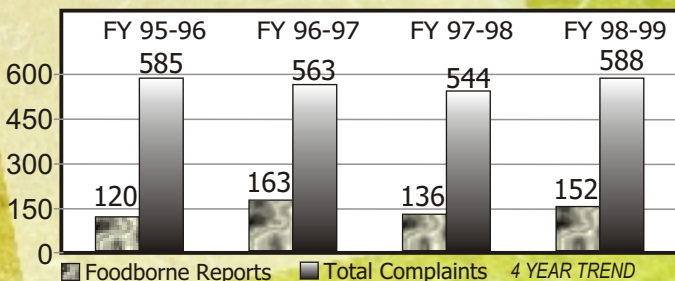
Consultation was provided and measures taken in every case to prevent future outbreaks.

Nearly 2,470 sanitation inspections were performed in restaurants, retail markets, and schools.

Staff provided 290 on-site technical assistance consultations and 1,244 phone consultations.

Staff issued 35 Food Enforcement Notices for situations which presented immediate and substantial risk to the public's health. Two establishments were temporarily closed until corrective actions were completed.

Complaints & Potential Foodborne Illness Outbreaks from Licensed Food Establishments



Source: Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department 11/99

QUALITY CHILD CARE

Health Objective for the Year 2000 - To increase the availability of quality child care.

Progress on Key Indicators for Healthy People 2000

The percentage of licensed child care spaces increased from 39% of all children needing care to 48%.

Quality child care is developed through educating parents, providers, employers and policy makers; providing parent referral to licensed providers; licensing and

inspection; and encouraging licensed providers to exceed regulations in the areas of disease and injury prevention and child development. This program requires extensive community development and advocacy work.

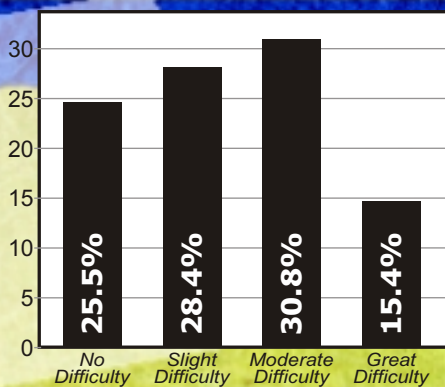
Child Care Needs In Lancaster County

Lincoln has one of the highest rates in the nation of mothers with young children in the workforce and two-income families. A local survey of infant care needs was conducted. This survey revealed that many parents

Parental Difficulty in Search for Infant Care

Lancaster Co., NE

Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department



experienced difficulty in finding quality infant care. There continues to be a need for additional licensed child care providers.

Setting Policy to Protect Children's Health in Child Care

Sixteen citizens comprise the City County Child Care Advisory Committee which gives policy makers guidance on child care issues, ranging from children's health to child development. Subcommittees address infant care, school age child care and sick child care. LLCHD staff worked closely with numerous agencies, businesses and the education community to assure duplicative efforts were minimized.



Children's Environmental Health - the K.I.T.E. Program

Children are at much greater health risk from environmental exposures than adults, so LLCHD has focused efforts on reducing children's environmental health risks. Efforts included helping Child Care Providers exceed licensing standards, participating in the Earth Wellness Festival and



providing workshops for Healthy Homes Community Resources Specialists, Public Health Nurses and School Health Nurses.

To better address this high priority concern LLCHD pursued an EPA Environmental Education grant in 1999. LLCHD developed the K.I.T.E. Program, which stand for Kids in Touch Environmentally. This grant helped LLCHD put additional resources toward improving the quality of child care by reducing environmental health risks to children. LLCHD developed several curricula as part of the grant, including Indoor Air Quality, Household Hazardous Waste, Water Quality, Food Safety, Lead Poisoning and Environmental Tobacco Smoke. Many other public and private entities collaborated with LLCHD to teach over 600 childcare providers. Empowered with this information, Child Care Providers then protect the children in their care by choosing safer environmental practices, maintaining a healthful environment and educating the children and their parents to do the same.

Assuring High Quality Child Care

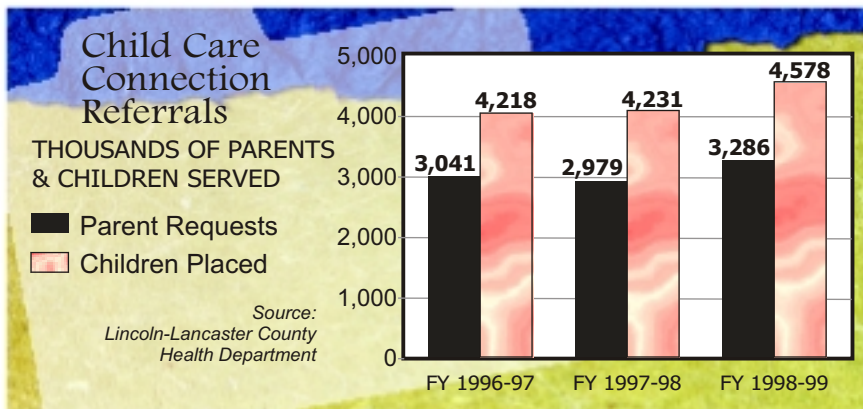
Over 100 child care providers became "Providers Exceeding Licensing Standards" by passing requirements of the Department of Education's "Indicators of Quality" and testing on portions of the Healthy Children Handbook.

The computerized Child Care Connection resource and referral service offers lists of licensed child care providers free to everyone in the community.

children and adults recovered. Immediate response kept the number of infected persons to a minimum, preventing spread in the community.

Nearly 1,100 inspections of child care facilities were completed, and 71 complaints on child care were investigated.

Special technical assistance was provided to several new child care facilities to assure the design would protect children's health and



A monthly calendar on training opportunities is sent to 1,750 child care homes, centers and agencies.

An outbreak of E. coli in a home child care was contained before the disease spread to other children in child care settings. Eight children and two adults were infected. Two children were hospitalized and one child experienced Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome, a kidney damaging complication. Fortunately, all

safety and enhance child development.

Family Care Solutions

Family Care Solutions (FCS) is a public-private collaboration supporting families in the full range of dependent care needs. In the tight labor market in Lincoln, businesses are increasingly looking for ways to help families and retain good employees. Educational seminars, personal support, resources and referrals for care are made

available to employees of participating businesses. The entire community benefits by the increased quality of child care available to every child. FCS is a joint project with the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging and was made possible by the investment of Aliant, Ameritas, Experian, Novartis, Pathology Medical Services, St. Mary's Catholic School, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Quest Diagnostics.

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAM

Health Objective for the Year 2000 - To conserve and protect ground and surface water for domestic, agriculture and industrial use.

Progress on Key Indicators for Healthy People 2000

All newly-drilled wells are now required to be registered.

All new sewage systems are required to meet regulations.

The Water Quality Protection Program assures that ground and surface water is protected from contamination, water from private wells is safe to drink, sewage is managed to prevent human exposure and environmental pollution, and pools and spas are safe for public recreation. Preventing groundwater

contamination is a program priority. Proposed land developments are carefully reviewed to assure adequate water quality and quantity and acceptable sewage disposal. All newly drilled domestic wells within Lincoln's three-mile jurisdiction are inspected and sampled. Anyone putting in a sewage system in Lancaster County must submit a construction application, which is reviewed for correct design. On-site inspections assure the system is installed as designed.

LLCHD has developed partnerships with rural communities and schools to protect groundwater. Norris High School students implemented the Groundwater Pollution Prevention Self-help Checklist at farms and acreage residences in wellhead protection areas. Fourteen students participated, obtaining water samples for nitrate testing and working through the checklist with the land owners. This same



checklist is provided to new rural property owners.

Assessment of our Water Quality

Many of the public health risks associated with contaminated water and sewage are well known, and programs have existed for many years. Water quality testing is done through sampling private wells for bacteria, nitrates, and other chemicals.

All water wells are being incorporated into a Geographic Information System database. This will provide an excellent resource for assessing water quality in specific areas of the county.

Public pools and spas are inspected and tested for required levels of disinfectant, water clarity and safety equipment needed for rescue.

Policy Development and Quality Assurance for Safe Water

Three acreage-type subdivisions just outside the city limits were annexed based on Health Department recommendation to protect the public's health from risks posed by their old, failing sewage systems. City sewer will soon be provided to each.

Health Department staff worked on an multi-agency team to develop curricula to train

sewage system installers and educational materials for septic system owners. UNL will administer the grant. LLCHD will pilot test the educational materials with local installers.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality received approval for changes to regulations for on-site wastewater treatment systems. LLCHD will incorporate these changes into local ordinances and resolutions. Meetings were held with sewage system installers to provide updates on policy and regulations.

Water Quality Highlights

More than 1,300 water well and sewage system inspections were performed.

Staff reviewed 171 proposals for changes in land use to assure adequate quantity and quality of water, adequate sewer and that public and environmental health risks were minimized. Plan reviews may involve on-site visits, accessing databases for information of groundwater quality and quantity and soil types, and identifying flood plain and right-of-way concerns.

More than 40 people attended the LLCHD coordinated On-site Sewage Installers Seminar.

About 240 water well permits were issued.

Staff collected 478 drinking water samples from private wells to determine suitability for drinking. Volatile organic chemical testing was performed on select wells.

Nearly 500 inspections of swimming pools and spas were completed. More than 40 pools or spas were closed temporarily until conditions were safe for public use. Typically, chlorine residuals were not being maintained.

Lancaster County and the Village of Davey were recognized as Groundwater Guardian Communities by the Groundwater Foundation.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES, COMMUNITY SANITATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Health Objective for the Year 2000 - To reduce the health and environmental consequences of solid and liquid waste.

Progress on Key Indicators for Healthy People 2000

The percentage of solid waste that is recycled has increased from 26% to over 37%.

The number of reports of illegal dumping along county roads has decreased from 293 in 1996 to 224 in 1999.

Basic sanitation conditions reflect the overall health of a community and are associated



with a multitude of public health impacts, including lead poisoning, poorer health outcomes in pregnancy, communicable disease transmission, low vaccination rates, rat and other scavenging animal problems and violence. The Public Health Nuisance Program responds quickly to complaints on garbage, safety concerns, standing water and other health nuisance conditions. Enforcement actions include actual abatement of the condition posing a risk to the public's health and taking court action.

Efforts to Improve Community Sanitation

Staff participate on two inter-departmental teams - the Problem Resolution Team and the Focus Areas Concept Team - which coordinate a unified city response to properties with multiple problems and areas with blighting conditions, respectively. LLCHD's role is addressing the problem holistically from a public health perspective.

The Mayor and City Council supported a change in state law that would allow Lincoln to require



garbage service for all rental properties. Rental properties have a much higher percentage of garbage problems than owner-occupied properties. This bill was held in committee for consideration in the 2000 session.

Education Combined With Enforcement is the Most Effective Combination in Changing Behavior

Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB) continues to take a grassroots approach to environmental education and mobilizes citizen's groups, neighborhoods and local schools to keep our environment clean. A hard working advisory committee helps establish goals and priorities. The mission of the KLLCB program is to improve waste handling practices and increase environmental awareness

through education and participation and to keep Lincoln and Lancaster County litter-free.

Measuring the Impact of Litter and Illegal Dumping

Effort to fight illegal dumping continue to focus on increased reporting. Billboards, bumper stickers and litter bags encourage citizens to report illegal dumpers to the Sheriff's office. New roadside signs stating, "Littering/Dumping, up to \$1000 Fine," will be erected later this year near sites most prone to illegal dumping. The 1999 litter survey found a slight decrease compared to the 1996 base line. Lincoln and Lancaster County continue to take great pride in being clean, but littering still occurs.

HIGHLIGHTS

LLCHD and the Yankee Hill Neighborhood Association made progress in getting a long-term "problem" property cleaned up. The property had over 100 nuisance, salvage and solid waste code violations. The owner was under a court order to keep the property clean and spent several months in jail.

More than 300 reports of illegal dumping of waste were received. More than 70% of these were along county roads and were referred to a private contractor for clean-up.

At the request of a neighborhood association, the City's Problem Resolution Team coordinated efforts to address multiple problems associated with a vacant lot and other properties near 1st and "J" Streets. LLCHD later coordinated a health fair in this neighborhood to promote wellness and encourage the maintenance of the improved level of sanitation. This quality of life in this area was substantially improved by these efforts.

KLLCB activities generated 13,717 hours of volunteer time. Nearly 3,000 individuals



volunteered their time and effort to make Lincoln and Lancaster County a cleaner, healthier, safer place to live.

The KLLCB Program assisted 38 Lincoln neighborhood associations, special interest



Wish Upon A Star

for a Litter Free



Lincoln!

groups and villages in cleanup efforts resulting in the recycling of 47,000 pounds and proper disposal of 250,000 lbs. of solid waste. KLLCB focuses on keeping costs low and getting people to focus on keeping a clean neighborhood all year.

The Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup kickoff was promoted as part of the Keep Wilderness Park Beautiful Cleanup. KLLCB recruited 30 youth volunteers who painted a bridge in Wilderness Park.

Over 150 volunteers helped the Keep Lincoln & Lancaster County Beautiful Program make the Star City Holiday Festival Parade a successful litter-free event. Seventy youth from 27 different schools performed in the KLLCB "Trash Can Band," which received the "JUDGES SPECIAL RECOGNITION" award.

Two "Tire Amnesty Days" were held in collaboration with the City Recycling Office. A Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality grant funded the effort

which allowed people to bring in their used tires at no cost. Approximately 70,000 tires (700 tons) were collected.

Nearly 1,270 public health nuisance complaints were investigated. Complaints typically involve garbage, acute safety hazards, illegal dumping, or rodent problems. Compliance efforts required 2,103 on-site inspections. Thirteen properties had the nuisance conditions abated by order of the Health Director, with costs assessed back to the property.

POLLUTION PREVENTION/AIR QUALITY

Pollution prevention is any activity that reduces the toxicity or amount of waste generated. Pollution prevention makes good public health sense since it reduces health risks and applies equally well to indoor air, outdoor air, groundwater, surface water,



soils and personal exposure to environmental health hazards in the home or workplace.

Collaborative efforts with business, industry and citizens make pollution prevention a community-wide effort.

Policy Development

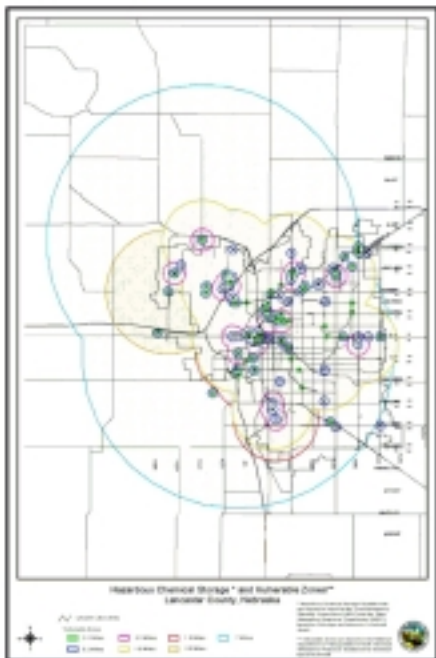
LLCHD participated in a multi-disciplinary task force to develop an Environmental Stewardship program. Initially conceived as a local effort, industry input led to the development of a state-wide approach. This program would offer incentives to business, industry and agriculture for exemplary environmental practices. The work products from this effort will be submitted to the Nebraska Legislature's Natural Resources Committee.

Risk Management Planning Program

The accidental release of toxic chemicals to the air can pose serious health risks. The Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requires that all facilities storing large quantities of toxic chemicals must develop release prevention and emergency response plans and hold public meetings to explain those plans. LLCHD received an EPA grant to help businesses comply with the law. LLCHD hosted a workshop, attended by 26 people, to explain the law, promote pollution prevention as the best method to reduce risk and help businesses develop plans and communicate to the public.

Several businesses eliminated or reduced the quantities of toxic materials, thus reducing community health risks. In some cases, these reductions freed the business from the need to develop emergency response plans. Other businesses have closed unsafe facilities or redesigned their facilities to be safer. The RMP Program has been a productive collaboration between federal, state, and local agencies business, industry and citizens making Lincoln, Hickman, Waverly and area villages safer.

The computer based Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to identify and map geographic features,



structures, transportation routes and typical wind directions. GIS pinpointed sensitive populations and sites at which chemicals were stored and modeled potential responses to a hypothetical crisis.

HIGHLIGHTS

Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB) coordinated the annual Lincoln-Lancaster County Environmental Awards, which are co-sponsored with the Public Works and Utilities Department. Category award winners were:

- Clean-up and Beautification - Wyuka Cemetery
- Pollution Prevention (toxicity reduction) - Goodyear Tire and Rubber and Square D
- Water Conservation - Kenl Inn, Inc.
- Waste Reduction and Recycling - Wayne and Dave Nielsen, UNL Recycling Department and Lancaster County Cooperative Extension
- Environmental Education/Awareness - Richard and Rosemary Wiese, Asian Cultural and Community Center, Hispanic Center, Clyde Malone Community Center and Pioneers Park Nature Center
- Residential/Commercial Development - Marv Renner

- Bruce Baugh Memorial Award (for individual achievement) - Ron Marquart

“Square D appreciated being recognized locally for our efforts to be good environmental stewards.”



John Hetcko

On-site pollution prevention technical assistance/consultation was provided to Nebraska Boiler, The Board Store, Telex, GFRC, Rivers Metals, National Crane, Ace Hardware, Fleming Foods, local Coops and many other businesses and public agencies.

The Storm Water Awareness Program (SWAP) increases awareness that what goes down a storm drain goes directly into our streams and lakes. All new storm drain inlets installed in Lincoln are required to have a fish symbol and

the words “NO DUMPING” and “LEADS TO STREAM” permanently imprinted into the concrete.

Eight LLCHD staff were among about 80 presenters at the Earth Wellness Fair. Nearly 3,000 fifth-grade students and teachers attend. LLCHD presentations included air pollution and buying the least toxic product.

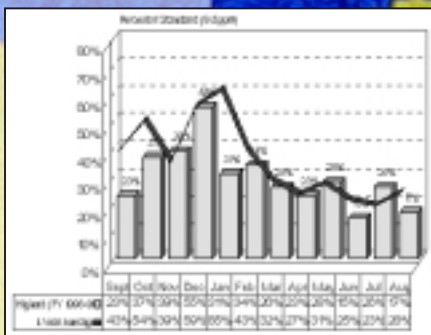
Over 80 adults from the Vietnamese Catholic Church attended an LLCHD presentation on household pollution prevention and waste disposal, Lincoln’s drinking water quality, lead poisoning and the safe consumption of fish caught in the waters of Nebraska.

The Hispanic Center’s environmental justice meeting and award ceremony drew 26 people. Educational presentations were made, and 103 families who participated in environmental education outreach were presented certificates.

Highest 8-hour Carbon Monoxide Level

As a Percent of the 8-hour Standard (9.5 ppm)

Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (11/99)



*Outdoor Air Quality
Health Objective for the
Year 2000 - To improve
and/or maintain the outdoor
air quality to protect the
public's health and welfare.*

Quality Environmental
Health Assessments Form the
Foundation for Good Risk-
based Decision-Making and
Reducing the Risk to the
Public's Health

Progress on Key Indicators for Healthy People 2000

The levels of "criteria" air
pollutants - carbon monoxide,
ozone and particulate matter -
have been maintained at levels
below health-based standards.

Emissions of hazardous
(toxic) air pollutants have
decreased dramatically, even with
a doubling in the number of
businesses required to report such
pollution.

Assessment of outdoor air
quality and potential public health
risks posed by air pollution is
gathered through two sources.
The first data set consists of
ongoing monitoring of Lincoln's
and Lancaster County's air quality
for carbon monoxide (CO), ozone
(O₃), and particulate matter
(PM_{2.5}). The other data set is
the amount and kind of air
pollution emitted by the largest air
pollution sources (business,

industry and government).
Computer modeling is performed
on potential new sources of air
pollution to assure that health risk
levels are not exceeded. Larger
businesses and industries have
specific restrictions placed on
them to protect the public's health
from air pollution. These
restrictions are part of LLCHD's air
pollution source Operating Permit
Program. Businesses and
industries using and releasing
hazardous chemicals into the air,
water or soil are offered pollution
prevention technical assistance.

Policy Development

Significant changes in
national policy on ambient air
quality standards have required
LLCHD to create a new monitoring
plan for very small particulate
matter (PM 2.5). This new
regulation focuses monitoring on
particulates that are believed to
pose the most risk to human
health.

The Air Pollution Control
Advisory Board (APCAB),
composed of industry
representatives, an elected official
and public spirited citizens, advises
the Board of Health and elected
officials in policy matters related to
outdoor air quality. APCAB's
efforts focused on developing fee
strategies which would more
equitably distribute program costs
to all sources of air pollution.

LLCHD was given approval to review and evaluate data from the EPA Cumulative Toxic Air Emission Exposure Project for Lancaster County. LLCHD was the only agency in the nation given this opportunity. LLCHD drafted a paper describing our review and results, which was posted on the Internet and discussed in a conference call with 200 people from 75 air agencies across the U.S.

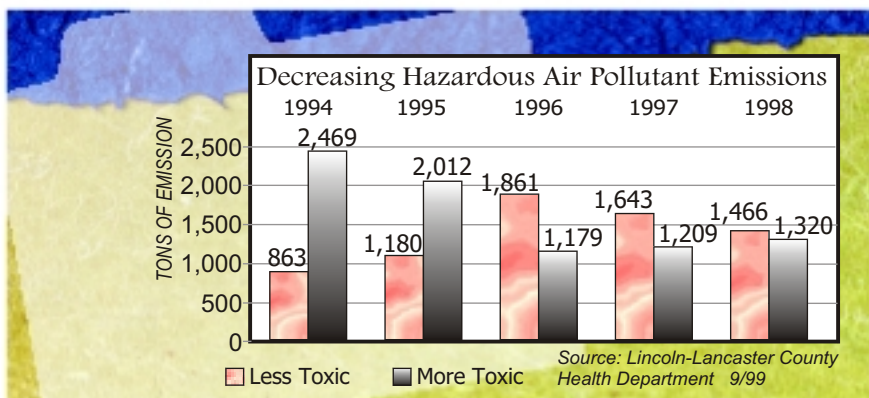
HIGHLIGHTS

technical assistance visits were conducted at small businesses to help them in completing regulatory reporting requirements and in reducing pollution.

Of the 131 inspections of asbestos removal were completed, seven notices of violation were issued.

Indoor Air Quality

Health Objective for the Year 2000 - To reduce the health risks caused by indoor



Lincoln maintained complete compliance with all national ambient air quality standards for CO, ozone and particulate matter for the twelfth straight year.

Of the 178 compliance inspections completed for air pollution sources, 14 were issued notices of violation.

Air pollution emission inventory reports were reviewed for 116 industries and businesses.

On-site pollution prevention

air pollutants in residences, work sites and public places.

Progress on Key Indicators for Healthy People 2000

The percentage of smoke-free restaurants has increased from less than 1% to over 50% in the past 10 years.

LLCHD provides technical assistance in identifying sources of indoor air pollution, preventing indoor air pollution and solving

indoor air quality problems in businesses, government work sites, apartment complexes and private residences. Consultation was provided to Galaxy Skateworld; Southeast Community College; Nebraska Neon Sign Company; Lancaster County Medical Society; the Community Blood Bank; several nail salons; Square D; HyVee Food Stores; several city and county work sites and many others. Pollutants creating the majority of health problems include paints and solvents, pesticides, environmental tobacco smoke, mold/mildew, particulate matter and mercury vapors (from broken thermometers and other sources).

LLCHD worked with Scott Middle School, Southeast High School and St. Mary's School, which volunteered to implement EPA's "Tools for Schools" program to assure that school staff had a system in place to evaluate and solve indoor air quality problems.

In a collaborative effort with Lincoln Public School's nursing programs, educational flyers on asthma and environmental tobacco smoke were sent home with all LPS elementary school students via the "Friday Folder."

LLCHD investigated 193 cases of poor indoor air quality. More than 200 on-site evaluations were conducted to determine

sources of indoor air quality problems. LLCHD handled 2,226 phone calls related to indoor air quality technical assistance.

An LLCHD workshop on carbon monoxide drew 53 people. Attendees included heating contractors, property managers, wholesalers and staff from Lincoln Public Schools and Lincoln Building and Safety Department.

A Core Function of the Environmental Health Division is to Assure Health Protection Through Appropriate Regulation

Special Waste Program

Health Objective for the Year 2000 - To reduce the health and environmental consequences of solid and liquid waste.

The Special Waste Program protects public health and the environment by assuring safe waste management practices; encouraging pollution prevention, reuse and recycling; and assuring proper disposal. This program is a collaborative effort with the Public Works and Utilities Department. This program prevents hazardous waste from entering the landfill. Compliance inspections are conducted, and illegal disposal of special and hazardous waste is investigated. Enforcement actions are taken when needed.

HIGHLIGHTS

The program reviewed 3,015 special waste inventories from local businesses. More than 900 special waste permits were issued.

The program acted on 69 requests for technical assistance consultations on managing special and hazardous wastes from local businesses and agencies.

A Partners in Pollution Prevention project with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln resulted in technical assistance being provided by engineering students to local businesses.

"I appreciate the help provided by the Health Department engineering staff. The new processes we implemented reduced pollution,



George Witt

and reduced our operating and maintenance costs. Having this kind of technical assistance available is a great resource to Lincoln's businesses."

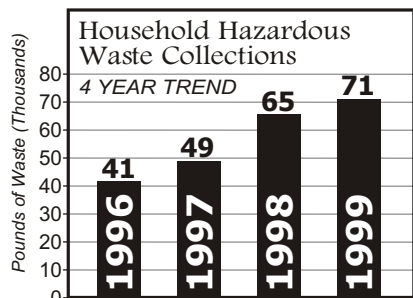
The program conducted 37 comprehensive compliance inspections.

Nearly 70 investigations of illegal special waste disposal were completed. Compliance assistance was provided to each business, and legal action was taken in several instances.



Household Hazardous Waste
Health Objectives for the Year 2000 - A) To reduce the health impact of hazardous materials. B) To reduce the health and environmental consequences of solid and liquid waste.

As the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program enters its 15th year, it continues to focus on three primary objectives: educating the public on choosing least toxic products; getting the most toxic and hazardous waste out of people's homes, garages, barns and basements thereby reducing health and environmental risks; and encouraging the recycling of oil, paint, batteries and other hazardous waste for which local recycling alternatives exist. The Program's intent is to



Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department 11/99

help citizens correctly handle, recycle and dispose hazardous waste. The program prevents significant quantities of hazardous waste from being dumped in the landfill. Old pesticides, solvent based paint, furniture stripping agents, mercury containing devices and PCBs are brought in to every collection. For the second year in a row, a local industry, Pfizer Animal Health, sponsored and funded a HHW Collection as a community service showing true corporate commitment to our community and to environmental stewardship.

HIGHLIGHTS

Seven different household hazardous waste collections resulted in 71,133 pounds of hazardous waste being collected from 1,627 households.

Eliminating mercury hazards from the home was a focus this year. LLCHD convinced both Bryan/LGH and St. Elizabeth Medical Center to no longer send

home mercury thermometers with new parents. LLCHD also distributed 1,500 non-mercury digital thermometers to low-income families in exchange for their mercury thermometers.

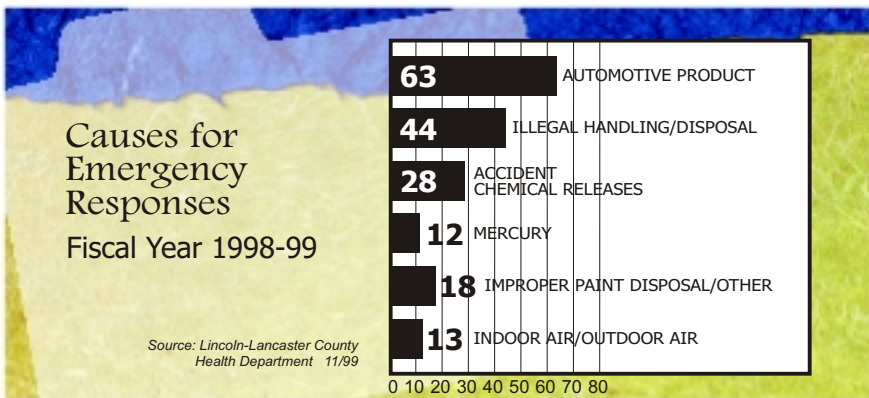
Technical assistance was provided to 525 citizens needing to get rid of household hazardous waste.

The annual spring paint exchange resulted in over 600 gallons of paint being reused.

Thirteen educational presentations on household pollution prevention were made. Sites included the Earth Wellness Fair, Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center and the Vietnamese Catholic Church.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM

Health Objective for the Year 2000 - A) To reduce the health impact of hazardous materials. B) To reduce the



health and environment consequences of solid and liquid waste.

LLCHD staff are on call 24 hours a day to respond to emergency events involving the release of hazardous materials. In 1997-98 the Emergency Response Team responded to 178 emergencies, 64% more than last year. Most responses are in conjunction with the Lincoln Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team or rural fire departments. Responses included spills of automotive fluids, illegal handling



or disposal, accidental chemical releases, pesticides spills, high levels of carbon monoxide and volatile organic chemicals in buildings, illegal dumping of hazardous waste and discharges to streams. The largest single category of the responses involved the release of gas, oil or diesel fuel from vehicles to the environment

HIGHLIGHTS

The illegal use of the pesticide malathion in a neighborhood led to several people becoming ill. Investigation

resulted in action being taken in court against the pesticide applicators license.

A contract was let to a private business to assist LLCHD in handling hazardous materials responses, including remediation and waste testing and disposal.

Responses included a mercury spill in a school and several in homes; numerous fuel spills into storm drains and creeks, including 500-, 120-, and 50-gallon diesel fuel spills; dumping of paint into storm drains; chlorine gas release at a pool; and a carbon disulfide spill in a laboratory.

A workshop on Emergency Planning, Right-to-Know and Toxic Release Inventory was hosted by LLCHD, Local Emergency Planning Committee and EPA Region 7 and was attended by 65 businesses.